

7/12/70

Dear Gary (only),

Beginning when Bud told me two weeks ago that he didn't have the \$400 I needed for only a short while, I've been doing some rethinking. First of all, that day, I arranged to borrow this money. But, needing it by the 10th, and not wanting the extra expense and time-waste of a needless trip to DC, I borrowed it locally, to be returned by the end of this week. Which means that if two overdue checks do not arrive I'll still have to make a trip to DC. However, I anticipate I'll have to anyway, for I should hear from Bud in a day or two about at least the spectro suit, which he thinks is great and will handle, if not the most important one, on the panel (meaning that and all autopsy), and the one on the Ferrie documents. I also have one against the Archives, GSA and the estate ready for him to read. I need only add the exhibits and it is ready, and early this morning I made a list of them. I expect to copy them tonight and have them ready.

We all know Bud has \$400 any time he wants it, pisses that much away by the time I've spent \$4. I asked for it knowing I'd have it, for there are two overdue checks for \$150 each supposedly en route from New York and I have received the third, for a bit over \$100. But suppose I had not been in a position to make immediate repayment?

What I am saying is that an intolerable burden is being placed on me by those in a position to relieve it - and they will not. There is an ample supply of money for every kind of crap and hurt, ranging from the Jaffe safari and the Boxely hegiras to the Sprague self-defamation. Penn can wander the world and not pay me what he has owed for three years. The LA Free Press can extol every plagiarism (I'm limiting myself to those of alleged principle only) but will not answer any letter asking for three-year-overdue payment for books. Every trip to Calif resulted in unkept promises, the total coming to something over \$1,000- and it has not cost me perhaps \$250 extra just to owe it.

Once in a while you or Paul or Mary send me a few bucks, and the help these small sums are you cannot imagine, we are that broke. In addition to the \$400 mentioned above, I very soon need another \$1,000, for insurance, taxes and medical payments. I haven't paid the dentist in so many years...

Now I've prepared these suits. I am also faced with the need for paying the various costs. Bud fotted the bill for the Ray suit, and I suppose he will on the spectro. I'm just not mentioning this. But the other fees, including filing costs and those of service, etc, will come to perhaps another \$150, and there are other suits to draft and file. I think others should come up with these costs. I do not mean you or Paul, who have but very limited resources, or Mary, who has been bleeding so. I do not know who. Perhaps some of those you know and have recently referred to could or would if properly approached.

I am not saying if this money is not forthcoming I'll not file these suits, for I will, going deeper into debt to do it. But I shouldn't have to.

And the reading of the arrogant, irresponsible Nichols suit compels me to believe speed is urgent. Nobody could have more eloquently have demanded that even a friendly judge knock him down that John did. You will not that in my memo there is no reference to arrogance, for I didn't want to go into that in any general distribution. But it is that, and needlessly so. It is a very dangerous suit, Skolnick with a morning suit.

Repeat, I'm not asking this of you or the other two, and do not think

any of you should consider providing these costs. But somebody should.

Were it not that I can't justify the buck and know we'd have spoken more than three minutes, I'd have phoned you this a.m. Instead I did much outside work, good but tiring. We had a real, genuine flood, 6 3/4 inches of rain in part of a day. I had my whole driveway to do over, scooping up the heavy, washed away stones and wheelbarrowing them back to somewhere close to where they had been, plus removing all that the grass permitted of my neighbor's entrance, all but the pipe of which was deposited on our road-front lawn. I'm pooped but the exercise was good for me.

If I permitted myself to think of it, I'd get really disgusted. Sylvia had money for Thornley, but none to help me at the Archives, and my stuff there gets distribution, including, in the past, to her. Maggie gave me two or three Scotches and a characterless sandwich one time, but left me to sleep on the sofa on a divorced woman's flat when I needed a pad and she has that mansion. Even Burton and the San Diego committee beat me out of money. Need I mention N.O. (which has fallen entirely silent, a bad sign, I think)?

I think I've placed an edited COUP (needing retitling) with a very small publisher. I should have had a contract by now but am not asking him for it. Under the verbal agreement, the edited version was due for my reading in a few days. I'll have to give all of that advance to the bank, whatever it is. That part of my indebtedness which the bank holds costs me \$1200 a year in interest alone, and that is an enormous sum for us. And, of course, it is 100% wasted.

On another subject, if you could get your new law-school contact to come here, he could get the answers he wants and I might get the legal help these and other suits could stand.

If you have any ideas, pass them along.

Best,